

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 remain pending in the application. Claims 3, 6 and 7 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof.

Reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of the pending application in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks are respectfully requested.

In the Official Action, claims 1, 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Karpik, U.S. Patent No. 6,357,543, claims 1, 4 and 5 are further rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Rix et al., U.S. Patent No. 2,536,769, and claims 1, 4 and 5 are further rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Grove et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,534,575. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Karpik in view of Lee, U.S. Patent No. 5,505,479, or Rix in view of Lee, or Grove in view of Lee, and claims 3, 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Karpik in view of Banse, U.S. Patent No. 5,108,126. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to more clearly define the structural features of the invention and to more clearly distinguish over the applied prior art references by further that each knuckle comprises an upper portion extending from an upper end of a lower portion and bent toward an inside of the suspension, and each mounting bracket comprises a plurality of locking holes provided in a generally vertical array thereon to enable height adjustment of the buffer. In this regard, the Examiner's attention is directed to, inter alia, Figs. 2 and 3 of Applicant's application.

It is a disclosed object of the present invention to provide an interconnected suspension for a vehicle, including a structure wherein a damping force is increased

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when the wheels on both sides bump, and the wheels are interconnected when the road surface is rough and uneven.

To achieve the above-noted object, the interconnected suspension for a vehicle having right and left control arms of the disclosed embodiment, as recited in amended claim 1, includes, inter alia, a pair of knuckles, each knuckle comprising an upper portion and a lower portion, the upper portion extending from an upper end of the lower portion and bent toward an inside of the suspension, a pair of control arms, each pair of control arms comprising an upper arm pivotally connected to the upper portion of one of the knuckles and a lower arm pivotally connected to the lower portion of one of the knuckles, a buffer linearly secured between end portions of the lower arms, and a pair of mounting brackets that mount the buffer, each mounting bracket being disposed at tip end portions of the lower arms respectively, each mounting bracket comprising a plurality of locking holes provided in a generally vertical array therein to enable height adjustment of the buffer.

Applicant respectfully submits that the references relied upon in the rejections under 35U.S.C. 102(b) and 103(a), considered singly or in any proper combination, do not disclose such a combination of features.

In comparison to the present invention, none of the applied references includes either the upper portion of the knuckle nor the locking holes as noted above. None of the spindle housing 36a and 36b in Karpik, the carrier 18 in Rix, or the wheel spindle 52 in Grove includes any bent upper portion therein.

Also, none of Karpik, Rix and Grove includes the locking holes noted above, as the Examiner indicated. In the Official Action the Examiner has asserted that Banse teaches a

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wheel suspension assembly with a plurality of locking holes used to adjust the height of the buffer as attached to the control arm. In contrast, however, in the present embodiment, the locking holes 370 are provided in a generally vertical array in the mounting bracket that is disposed at a tip end portion of the lower arm, while the multiple anchoring holes 24 and 25 in Banse are horizontally provided on the mounting plate 21 that is secured to the infrastructure 2 of the vehicle. The Lee reference does not disclose the above-noted combination of features either.

Therefore, none of the references relied for the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) discloses the above-noted features of the present embodiment, and thus none of the applied references anticipates the present invention or render the presently claimed invention unpatentable.

Also, even assuming, arguendo, that the teachings of the references applied against the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) can be properly combined, the asserted combination of the teachings of these references would not result in the invention as recited in the claims.

In the Official Action claims 1-7 are rejected under 35U.S.C.112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement, and claims 1-7 are rejected under 35U.S.C.112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In this regard the Examiner has indicated that the buffer is not directly connected to the lower arms but is directly connected to a mounting bracket, and each control arm does not comprise a pair of upper arms and a pair of lower arms but one upper arm and one lower arm. The drawings are objected to under 37CFR1.83(a) for failing to show every feature of the invention

specified in the claims.

In response, claim 1 has further been amended to clarify the recitations by reciting a buffer linearly secured between end portions of the lower arms, and each pair of control arms comprising an upper arm pivotally connected to the upper portion of one of the knuckles and a lower arm pivotally connected to the lower portion of one of the knuckles. Therefore Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections of claims 1-7 under 35U.S.C.112, first paragraph, 35U.S.C.112, second paragraph, and the objection of the drawings under 37CFR1.83(a) are moot.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based on prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to be attached thereto.

Independent claim 1 is now in condition for allowance in view of the amendments and the above-noted remarks, and claims 2, 4 and 5 dependent thereon are also submitted to be in condition for allowance in view of their dependence from the allowable base claim and also at least based upon their recitations of additional features of the present invention. It is respectfully requested, therefore, that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(b), 35 U.S.C. 103(a) and on the first and second paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 112 be withdrawn and that an early indication of the allowance thereof be given.

Based on the above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

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Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this response, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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